

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY FEBRUARY 14, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 88

Introduced by Assembly Member Linder

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Grove, Hagman, Harkey, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Lowenthal, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Muratsuchi, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, Perea, John A. Pérez, Quirk, Rendon, Rodriguez, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)

January 30, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 88—Relative to Abraham Lincoln’s birthday.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 88, as amended, Linder. Abraham Lincoln’s birthday.

This measure would declare that President Abraham Lincoln be honored on February 12, 2014, the anniversary of his birthday.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United
- 2 States, and one of our nation’s most respected and admired
- 3 Americans, rose from humble beginnings to become President of
- 4 the United States and courageously led his country during its
- 5 darkest time, the Civil War; and

1 WHEREAS, President Lincoln brought a profound honesty and
2 integrity to the Office of the President, and will always be
3 remembered as “Honest Abe.” Most of all, he will forever be
4 associated with saving the Union and with the abolition of slavery;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln was born on February
7 12, 1809, in Kentucky, and spent the first seven years of his life
8 there; and

9 WHEREAS, In his entire life, President Lincoln was only able
10 to attend school for a total of one year. This lack of formal
11 education only made him hungrier for more knowledge, and he
12 mastered the Bible, the works of William Shakespeare, and the
13 law; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1846, he was elected to the United States
15 Congress as the only member of the Whig Party in the Illinois
16 congressional delegation, where he forthrightly articulated his
17 views against the Mexican War and his vehement opposition to
18 the extension of slavery, choosing not to run for reelection in 1848;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, Soon after President Lincoln joined the Republican
21 Party, a new political party opposed to the extension of slavery,
22 in 1858 the Republicans nominated him for the United States
23 Senate. In his nomination acceptance speech, Lincoln stated: “A
24 house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government
25 cannot endure, permanently, half slave and half free. I do not expect
26 the Union to be dissolved — I do not expect the house to fall —
27 but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all one
28 thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest
29 the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall
30 rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or
31 its advocates will push it forward, till it shall become lawful in all
32 the States, old as well as new — North as well as South.” He lost
33 in a close election to Stephen Douglas, the Democratic Party
34 candidate; and

35 WHEREAS, Just two years later, having won the Republican
36 party nomination for President of the United States, President
37 Lincoln won election by a small margin, defeating, among other
38 candidates, Senator Stephen Douglas; and

39 WHEREAS, Shortly after assuming office, the Civil War began.
40 As the war continued, President Lincoln expanded the objectives

1 of the war beyond saving and restoring the Union, but also to
2 freeing the slaves and abolishing the institution of slavery; and

3 WHEREAS, On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln took
4 the first major step toward the total abolition of slavery in the
5 United States by issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, which
6 took effect on January 1, 1863; and

7 WHEREAS, President Lincoln enunciated the nation’s loftiest
8 ideals during its darkest moment following the bloodiest battle of
9 the Civil War. His Gettysburg Address, regarded as one of the
10 finest speeches in the English language, was delivered by him at
11 Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on November 19, 1863, while dedicating
12 a cemetery for those killed in the Battle of Gettysburg, which took
13 place from July 1 to July 3, 1863, between the Army of the
14 Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia; and

15 WHEREAS, In his Gettysburg Address, President Lincoln
16 reaffirmed the nation’s foremost founding principles, declaring
17 the United States to be a nation “conceived in Liberty, and
18 dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal,” while
19 assuring a nation still consumed by war “that this nation, under
20 God, shall have a new birth of freedom – and that government of
21 the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the
22 earth”; and

23 WHEREAS, To ensure that the provisions of the Emancipation
24 Proclamation could not be construed as a mere wartime measure,
25 President Lincoln insisted that enactment of a constitutional
26 amendment abolishing slavery be included in the 1864 Republican
27 Party platform; and

28 WHEREAS, Upon reelection to a second term as President in
29 1864, President Lincoln actively supported the passage in Congress
30 of what became the 13th Amendment to the United States
31 Constitution, the copy of the joint resolution referring the 13th
32 Amendment to the states for ratification, which to this day is
33 housed in the National Archives, actually bears President Lincoln’s
34 signature, even though the President has no formal constitutional
35 role in the amendment process, and joint resolutions do not go to
36 the White House for either signature or approval; and

37 WHEREAS, President Lincoln ultimately reunified the nation
38 and brought about a successful conclusion to our nation’s bloodiest
39 war, as the Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, with the surrender
40 of General Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia to

1 the Union General, Ulysses S. Grant, at Appomattox Court House;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Only five days later, on April 14, 1865, President
4 Lincoln was shot while viewing a performance of “Our American
5 Cousin” at Ford’s Theater in Washington, D.C., and died the next
6 day, not living to see his dreams of the formal abolition of slavery
7 and the restoration of the Union realized; and

8 WHEREAS, President Lincoln’s accomplishments and legacy
9 as the “Great Emancipator” and “Preserver of Our Union” are
10 perhaps unsurpassed in the history of our nation, and it is
11 particularly appropriate to recognize President Lincoln, a portrait
12 of whom hangs in a place of honor in the Assembly Chambers;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
15 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby declares that
16 President Abraham Lincoln be honored on February 12, 2014, the
17 anniversary of his birthday, not only in recognition of his numerous
18 accomplishments and contributions to our nation, but also as the
19 virtual symbol of the American dream, whereby an ordinary person
20 from the most humble beginnings can reach the pinnacle of
21 American society to be elected President, and to serve his country
22 with honor and courage; and be it further

23 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
24 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.